

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 SAM-01

/155 W

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R 050431Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1116

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4281

FROM PAGANELLI EMBASSY DOHA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR QA US XF

SUBJ: SOBER VISIT: US-QATARI EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MID EAST
SITUATION

1. DURING ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR SEPT 28 DISCUSSION BETWEEN
AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, AND VISITING
NEA DEPUTY ASST SECY SOBER, THERE WAS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
MID EAST SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO MYSELF, GOQ MINISTER OF
INFORMATION ISSA AL KAWARI, WHO IS ALSO THE AMIR'S CHEF DE
CABINET, ATTENDED THE MEETING.

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2. SOBER STRESSED USG'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE HELPING

PARTIES TO REACH JUST AND DURABLE PEACE, AND PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IN THIS EFFORT. SOBER UNDERLINED THAT US ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS POTENTIAL TO CATALYZE MID EAST SETTLEMENT BECAUSE OF GOOD US RELATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES. SOBER CITED DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED US RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA, AND DETERMINATION TO ASSIST SADAT AND ASAD IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT POLITICAL SOLUTION OF MID EAST PROBLEM. SOBER ALSO SAID WE IN CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH KING FAYSAL ON SITUATION.

3. AMIR REPLIED THAT US EFFORTS TO DATE ON MID EAST PEACE GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED USG UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO PLAY ROLE BECAUSE OF ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES. HE EXPRESSED HEARTY APPROVAL OF US CLOSENESS TO SADAT, ASAD AND FAYSAL. HE NOTED QATARI ASSISTANCE TO BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA, AND UNDERLINED QATARIS' TRADITIONALLY CLOSE TIES WITH FAYSAL.

4. KHALIFA ASSERTED THAT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM REMAINS THE CORE ISSUE, AND MUST BE RESOLVED IF THERE IS TO BE A SECURE PEACE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANY UN RESOLUTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. SOBER ACKNOWLEDGED CENTRALITY OF PALESTINE QUESTION, AND NOTED OUR BELIEF--EXPRESSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS--THAT ANY JUST SOLUTION OF MID EAST PROBLEM HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

5. KHALIFA EXPRESSED APPREHENSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FIFTH ROUND OF CONFLICT IN AREA, WHICH HE SAID WOULD PRODUCE NOTHING BUT CHAOS. HE NOTED THE DANGEROUS PORTENTS OF RENEWAL OF US ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAEL AND SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY TO ARABS. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED VERY DISTURBING REPORT THAT LIBYANS WERE BUYING SOVIET ARMS.

6. KHALIFA EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF VISIBLE AND CONTINUOUS PROGRESS TOWARD MID EAST SOLUTION. HE WARNED THAT ANY BREAKDOWN WOULD RESUSCITATE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA WHICH ROOTED SOLELY IN ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING KHALIFA, OTHER DISRUPTIVE AND EXTREMIST AREA ELEMENTS WOULD WELCOME BREAKDOWN IN PEACE PROCESS, AND HE SINGLED OUT LIBYA FOR

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PARTICULAR MENTION IN THIS CONTEXT. KHALIFA PLEDGED THAT QATAR WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD IN ITS OWN MODEST WAY TO FACILITATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE REITERATED APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD AND SAID HE VALUED SOBER'S ASSURANCE THAT OUR EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE UNABATED.

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